

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JUAN ESTEVEZ,

Plaintiff,

16-cv-73(JGK)

- against -

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND
ORDER

CITY OF NEW YORK, ET AL.,
Defendants.

JOHN G. KOELTL, District Judge:

The plaintiff has sought appointment of pro bono counsel. The plaintiff's application to appoint counsel is **denied without prejudice** for failure to make the required showing. The Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has articulated factors that should guide the Court's discretion to appoint counsel to represent an indigent civil litigant under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. See Hodge v. Police Officers, 802 F.2d 58, 61-62 (2d Cir. 1986); Jackson v. Moscicki, No. 99-cv-2427 (JGK), 2000 WL 511642, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 27, 2000). For the Court to order the appointment of counsel, the plaintiff must, as a threshold matter, demonstrate that the claim has substance or a likelihood of success on the merits. See Hodge, 802 F.2d at 60-61. Only then can the Court consider the other factors appropriate to a determination of whether counsel should be appointed: "plaintiff's ability to obtain representation independently, and [his] ability to handle the case without assistance in the light

of the required factual investigation, the complexity of the legal issues, and the need for expertly conducted cross-examination to test veracity." Cooper v. A. Sargenti Co., Inc., 877 F.2d 170, 172 (2d Cir. 1989).

The Court cannot determine at this time whether the plaintiff's claims have merit because the plaintiff has not made such a showing. The plaintiff's application for the Court to appoint counsel is therefore **denied without prejudice** for failure to make the required showing at this time.

The time to file an amended complaint is extended to August 30, 2016.

SO ORDERED.

**Dated: New York, New York
July 20, 2016**

_____/s/_____
John G. Koeltl
United States District Judge